

 <p><b>wildsight</b> Invermere</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES</b>  <b>Wildsight Invermere</b>  <b>Annual General Meeting</b>  <b>Saturday, April 27, 2019</b>          Wilmer Community Hall          9179 West Ave, Wilmer BC V0A1K5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inspire. Connect. Conserve.</b></p>
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Call to Order: 7:00pm

In attendance: 34 members; 15 non-members

**1. Preliminaries**

**a. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Margie Jamieson; second Michael Power; carried unanimously

**b. Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes**

Motion to approve the 2018 AGM minutes as presented, Mandi McRobbie; second Stefanie Falz; carried unanimously

**c. Financial Report for fiscal year ending January 31, 2019**

Adam Pickett, Board Treasurer, presented the Financial report. Motion to approve financial report as presented, Louise Olinger; second Stefanie Falz; carried unanimously

**2. Election of Board of Directors 2019/2020**

Motion to approve the Board of Directors as below, Jamie Gillies; second Mandi McRobbie; carried unanimously

**Jillian Cochrane**  
**Stefanie Falz**  
**Cam Gillies**  
**Jessie King**  
**Baiba Morrow**  
**Adam Pickett**  
**Taoya Schaefer**

**3. Discussion Items**

**a. Summary of 2018 Programs**

Presented by Branch Manager, Mandi McRobbie. See Appendix I below for details

The main Program Funding partners were acknowledged: Columbia Basin Trust, Regional District of East Kootenay, District of Invermere, and the BC Government.

## **b. President's remarks**

Baiba Morrow pointed out that 2019 marks Wildsight Invermere's 30<sup>th</sup> year. The Invermere branch began in 1989, and was incorporated in March 1998. Invermere's first Directors were John Ashby, Bob Campsall, Albert Cooper, Jim Galloway, Kat Hartwig, Marilyn Kraayvanger, Jacqui Pinsonneault, and Gerry Wilkie. Guide Outfitter Albert Cooper died in 2012 but everyone else is very much still engaged in the community. She thanked everyone for their dedication and engagement.

She also acknowledged a few other past Board members: Arnor Larson, Nory Esteban, Marion Stotts, Ron Clarke, Becky Blakley, and expressed her deep appreciation for the hard work of the current Board.

In 2018, Wildsight Invermere participated in CBT's Non-Profit Advisors program, a crucial step in elevating the professionalism and accountability of the Branch. As Adam has pointed out, CBT's support has allowed us to get our financial books in order. We've taken the next step and are currently engaged in a strategic planning process.

Baiba encouraged attendees to fill out the Branch survey put together by Mandi in an effort to get community feedback on environmental priorities. An appeal was made for volunteers to get involved helping out with events, fundraising, social media, and helping to organize the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in November.

## **c. Questions/ Discussion**

### **4. Adjournment** at 7:35pm

Motion to adjourn the AGM, Mandi McRobbie; second Stefanie Falz; carried unanimously

After the AGM, the documentary film *Treeline: A Story Written in Rings* was shown. This was followed by a discussion about local forestry issues, led by John Bergenske, Wildsight's Conservation Director, and Brian Gustafson from Golden, in his new position of the Columbia Valley Conservation Coordinator.

## **Appendix I**

### **Wildsight Invermere Branch 2018 Report**

Presented by Branch Manager, Mandi McRobbie

In 2018, we worked on 3 key projects:

1. The majority of our time was spent delivering the final year of our CONNECTING WITH NATURE program.

Connecting With Nature was a program intended to bring people together to explore, to learn about and to actively care for nature through a series of engaging events.

In 2018, Connecting With Nature brought you:

- 3 Wild Ideas Film & Speaker events
- 5 Wild Exploration events (workshops and walks)
- 4 Wild Ideas outreach booth events
- Our 2nd Annual 'Ursus & Us: Community Bear Awareness Day'
- Our 5th Annual 'Wild & Scenic Film Festival'

Last year, Connecting With Nature was made possible by your generous volunteer hours and financial donations as well as funding from Columbia Basin Trust and BC Gaming.

2. The second program we delivered in 2018 was our RADON ACTION & AWARENESS PROGRAM.

If you were at our previous AGM, you would have heard a little bit about radon. Essentially, radon is an invisible, odourless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the environment but becomes a serious health concern when it seeps into our homes; it's the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada. The valley is believed to be an area where radon levels are elevated so in December of 2017, we distributed 100 free long-term radon tests from Canal Flats to Spillimacheen and in 2018 we compiled the data generated from those tests.

The results of our program showed that of 1 in 3 residential properties tested in the Columbia Valley had dangerous levels of radon; some homes had levels greater than five times what Health Canada says is acceptable.

We followed up with our radon program participants and found that two families were awaiting contractors to install mitigation measures and others were making plans to mitigate in future, citing financial constraints as the limiting factor. None of the participants with radon levels below the Health Canada guideline said that they would take mitigative measures.

Our RADON ACTION & AWARENESS PROGRAM was made possible with funding from the RDEK and COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST.

3. Thirdly, we began developing our COLUMBIA VALLEY ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHARE PROGRAM (CVEVS) in 2018.

We introduced the Electric Vehicle Share concept at our last AGM and many of you had great questions and thoughtful comments and we were certainly buoyed by your enthusiasm and support for the program.

I'm happy to report that over the past year, former Program Coordinator, Christine Catleugh, together with our branch Board and the CVEVS committee, liaised with industry leaders and consultants to create a solid business model for the program and we have since fundraised more than 2/3 of the budget required to launch the program.

And even more exciting news here....a fully electric Chevy Bolt has arrived at the dealership in Cranbrook and it is being held for our car share program! We are so close!

A couple key tasks currently underway include working with a carshare software vendor to secure technology to make our program efficient and user-friendly as well as sorting a dedicated parking spot and exclusive charge station.

As mentioned, we really are so close to reaching our fundraising goal of \$90,000, and to help us cover that final stretch we will soon announce community and corporate sponsorship opportunities that will come with some great perks. I'll have more details on this in the coming days so keep an eye out for that (or speak with me afterwards!)

2018 really was a tremendous year for Wildsight Invermere. It's an honour to be the leading voice for the environment in the Columbia Valley, 30 years strong, and while I suspect that we would all prefer to live in a time where people didn't have to advocate and educate for a stable climate, fresh water, clean air, wildlife and wild spaces, please know that until that time comes, we will continue to work for your wild values.